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Sen. Chance introduces *HOPE Chest* legislation

ATLANTA— State Sen. Ronnie Chance (R-Tyrone) has introduced legislation on behalf of Governor Sonny Perdue, which aims to protect Georgia's HOPE Scholarship for future generations. Senate Resolution 125, known as the *HOPE Chest* Amendment, would limit the use of lottery funds to costs associated with the HOPE scholarship and Pre-K programs.

"These two programs are the cornerstones of education here in Georgia," said Sen. Chance. "The passage of this legislation will ensure the future of HOPE and Pre-K for generations to come."

Between the 1994 and 2003 fiscal years, state legislators appropriated over \$1.8 billion in lottery revenue on budget items outside of the HOPE and Pre-K programs. The *HOPE Chest* Amendment would mandate that lottery funds only be spent on the HOPE and Pre-K programs.

As one of Gov. Perdue's administration floor leaders in the Senate, Sen. Chance, along with co-sponsor Sen. Joseph Carter (R-Tifton), will carry Gov. Perdue's legislation as it works its way through the legislative process.

"Last week, we celebrated the one millionth recipient of the HOPE Scholarship in Georgia," added Sen. Chance. "It's crucial to protect HOPE and to make sure that down the road it is available for a million more Georgia students. This amendment is not about any previous administrations or legislatures. This is a bipartisan effort to be the best stewards we can be."

In 2006, Gov. Perdue named Sen. Chance as an administration floor leader in the Senate. As Georgia's executive officer, Gov. Perdue cannot introduce or carry legislation in either chamber of the General Assembly, so it is the floor leaders' duty to do so.

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Sen. Ronnie Chance represents the 16th Senate District, which includes Lamar and Pike counties and portions of Fayette, Monroe and Spalding counties. He may be reached by phone at 404.651.7738 or via e-mail at ronnie.chance@senate.ga.gov.